



Dear friends

The Church Leadership Team (CLT) have continually been considering the reopening of the church building as the government and Baptist Together update their guidelines.

As part of this we have been working on a church building reopening risk assessment and starting to make the building more Covid safe. Any future reopening of the building is likely to be on a phased basis, initially with smaller groups, taking account of the regulations and advice published by the government and Baptists Together, available at the time.

As things currently stand, CLT have made the decision that the church will not open for Sunday services for the foreseeable future, but we want to assure you that this will be kept under regular review. We will therefore continue with the weekly video casts and Zoom coffee on Sundays.

Our caretaker and cleaner have returned from furlough to work in the building again, strictly following their staff risk assessments. They have been instructed not to give access to the building to any other persons unless this has been agreed with CLT. If you require access to the building for any reason, you must seek permission in advance by contacting Lynne Gradwell.

CLT have agreed to the church hosting two weddings this term and risk assessments have been completed by those getting married, together with Paul Newman, who is officiating at both weddings, to ensure the guidelines are followed.

We recognise that there may be reasons why some small activity groups may want to meet in the building again and we are looking at ways this could be possible, as a first phase, initially on a pilot basis. Ann Sudworth is working on a risk assessment to allow the chair exercise group to meet. We have been very concerned about the loneliness and mental health issues of this group and even though the members of the group in care homes will not be able to attend yet, CLT believe it would be good to support the rest of the group, if this can be done safely.

In the meantime we are considering opening the church for a morning and/or evening for silent prayer. There would be strict measures to follow regarding social distancing, the wearing of masks, sanitation measures and absolutely no socialising before, during or after your time in the building. If this is something you would find of benefit please email lynne.gradwell@wbbs.org.uk and CLT will consider the way forward.

It has been lovely to hear from groups within the church, including Take 5 & chat, house groups, children and youth, pastoral team and Parish nurses who have been meeting via Zoom and supporting so many of our church family and community. It would be great if we all encouraged each other by taking time to phone someone in church for a catch up chat. The Church Directory will give you a good place to start *

Thank you for your continuing support, patience and love.

The Church Leadership Team

* We will soon be starting work on producing a new church directory. If you are not in the present directory and would like to be added or if your contact details have changed please email Carol at office@wbbs.org.uk